



Introduction to High School Transcript Collections

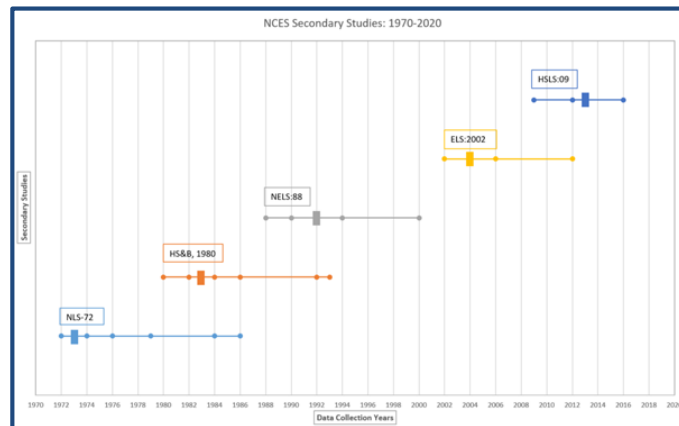
Module Objectives

- Introduce NCES' High School Transcript Collections of Secondary Longitudinal Studies
 - NLS-72
 - HS&B
 - NELs:88
 - ELS:2002
 - HSLS:09
- Describe the study samples, designs, and data collection
- Describe how weights are calculated and used

High School Transcript Collections

Secondary Longitudinal Studies*

- [National Longitudinal Study of 1972 \(NLS-72\)](#)
- [High School and Beyond \(HS&B\)](#)
- [National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988 \(NELS:88\)](#)
- [Education Longitudinal Study of 2002 \(ELS:2002\)](#)
- [High School Longitudinal Study of 2009 \(HSLs:09\)](#)



*Note that NAEP has a [High School Transcript Study \(HSTS\)](#) that is not part of the Secondary Longitudinal Studies

High School Transcript Collections (HSTC) – Sample

- Each high school longitudinal study starts with a two-stage sample design
 - Selection of schools
 - Selections of students within schools
- Students must have attended a public or private high school in the U.S.
- Each target population is nationally representative of its cohort

NCES Survey	8 th -Graders	9 th -Graders	Sophomores	Seniors
NLS-72				X
HS&B			X	X
NELS:88	X		X	X
ELS:2002			X	X
HSLs:09		X		

High School Transcript Collections (HSTC) – Design

- Transcripts are collected from students who were cohort members and who graduated from a public or private high school in the U.S.
- School catalogs are collected from base year schools for some cohorts

High School Transcript Collections (HSTC) - Data Collection

Data collected on

- Course offerings (from school catalogs)
- Grade point average (GPA)
- Coursetaking patterns
- Credit earnings
- The amount of detail in the transcript collection varies depending on the study
- Data are linked to each study's assessment and survey data so coursetaking patterns can be linked to
 - Academic performance
 - Student motivation
 - Postsecondary enrollment, coursetaking, and degree attainment
 - Career plans

HSTC - Data Collection (Continued)

- Each of NCES' secondary longitudinal cohorts has high school transcript data available
- Most transcript data for these studies require a [Restricted-use license](#)
- Public-use transcript data can be analyzed with [PowerStats](#) and/or by downloading micro-level datasets from the [Education Data Analysis Tool \(eDAT\)](#)
 - Public-use variables are primarily [composite variables](#)

HSTC Data Collection – NLS-72

High School Transcript Collection of the National Longitudinal Survey of 1972 (NLS-72)

- Cohort of 1972 seniors
- All base year schools were requested to send each student's School Record Information Form (SRIF) including
 - High school curriculum information
 - Grade point average (GPA)
 - Credit hours
 - Class rankings
 - Remedial-instruction record
 - Involvement in certain federally supported programs
 - Scores on standardized tests
- 18,110 SRIFs (from a sample of 18,143) from about 1,070 public and private schools

HSTC Data Collection – HS&B

High School Transcript Collections of High School & Beyond (HS&B)

- Cohort of 1980 sophomores
 - Hispanic and private school students were oversampled
- All base year schools and transfer schools were requested to send transcripts and course catalogs or student handbooks to aid in the coding of courses, grades, and credits earned
- Transfer schools responded at a lower rate than base year schools: 86% vs. 95%, respectively
 - Note that transfer schools often included a smaller number of students than base year schools
- 15,941 sample members' transcripts (from a sample of 18,427) from about 1,900 public and private school

HSTC Data Collection – NELS:88

High School Transcript Collections of the National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988 (NELS:88)

- Cohort of 1988 8th-graders, 1990 sophomores, and 1992 seniors
 - Sample is representative of *both* seniors in spring 1992 *and* graduating seniors in the 1991-1992 school term
 - Oversampled Asian, Hispanic, and private school students
- “Contextual Schools” and “Noncontextual Schools”
 - Because of sample dispersion between 8th grade and the second follow-up, a sample of “contextual schools” was selected, from which school administrator and teacher data were also collected
 - All “contextual schools” were requested to send transcripts and school catalogs
 - A smaller number of “noncontextual schools” were asked to send transcripts and catalogs if they had students who had dropped out, were alternative completers, or early graduates
- 14,290 sample members' transcripts (from a sample of 16,373) from 1,953 public and private schools

HSTC Data Collection – ELS:2002

High School Transcript Collections of the Education Longitudinal Study of 2002 (ELS:2002)

- Cohort of 2002 sophomores
- All base year schools were requested to send transcripts and school catalogs
 - “Bookend approach” used
 - Transcripts were requested from base year schools *and* the last school that transfer students attended
 - Course catalogs were requested for four school years covering 2000–04 from base year schools and for two school years, 2002–03 and 2003–04, from transfer schools
- 17,285 sample members’ transcripts (from a sample of 19,320) from 1,543 public and private schools

HSTC Data Collection – HSLS:09

High School Transcript Collections of the High School Longitudinal Study of 2009 (HSLS:09)

- Cohort of 2009 9th-graders
- Transcript collection was attempted for every school the sample member attended
- All base year schools and transfer schools were requested to send
 - Transcripts
 - School catalogs
 - School information pages with information about grading and graduation policies
- When not sent by the school, course catalogs were downloaded from school and district websites whenever possible
- 21,928 sample members have transcripts (from a sample of 23,415) from 3,028 public and private schools

HSTC Weights

- Weights were created for each study to account for nonresponse in high school transcript data
- Specific to each study

HSTC Weights (Continued)

NLS-72

- Because the SRIF information was attached to the student-level file, weight selection should be the same as student variable information
 - No additional adjustments were made for nonresponse in SRIF
- [Weight](#) with base year data should be selected
 - W1 is the first of many weights that can be used
 - W22 includes the Base Year and Fourth Follow-Up

HSTC Weights (Continued)

HS&B

- [Weighting](#) procedures were devised to take into account
 - Differential selection probabilities for sample members
 - Differential response rates for different types of schools and students
- For each sampled student, an initial weight, TRWT, was computed as
 - The product of the First Follow-Up weight (prior to nonresponse adjustment)
 - The reciprocal of the student's retention probability in the transcript study for subsampled cases
 - School's Base Year primary sample type had most variability in response rates
 - Nonresponse adjustment factors were calculated to adjust for the missing cases
 - Final transcript sample weights were computed

HSTC Weights (Continued)

NELS:88

- [Weights](#) were adjusted for nonresponse and were initially computed to account for each particular cohort in the sample
- F2TRSCWT is suitable for analyzing transcript data pertaining to the high school careers of the NELS Second Follow-Up sample of students, early graduates, and dropouts
- F2TRP1WT was designed for analyses of the 1988 (Base Year) and 1992 (F2) panel sample
- F2TRP2WT was designed for analyses of the 1990 (F1) to 1992 (F2) panel sample
- More weights exist that account for nonresponse in each subsequent wave, and for each cohort
 - Users should read the data user's manuals that accompany the data files in order to select the best weight for their particular analysis
- Note that while data are longitudinal, spanning four years for most individuals, population estimates generated using F2TRSCWT have specific reference to the spring term of the 1991-1992 school year
 - NELS sample contains both dropouts and students, and represents three independent grade cohorts viewed in the spring term of 1992
 - The transcript weight does not inflate the sample to a conventional analysis population
- Cross-cohort comparisons are possible with transcripts
 - This report details an example with NELS:88, HS&B and NLS-72

HSTC Weights (Continued)

ELS:2002

- The [weight](#) F1TRSCWT was initially computed for ELS transcript respondents
 - Weights were based on the wave of collection, not the cohort
 - Subsequent weights were created with each wave of a longitudinal study, to address nonresponse specific to each wave
- Note: 86% of transcript respondents have 4 complete years of high school transcript information
 - Users need to be cautious when including those with incomplete high school transcript information
- Weights were created to adjust for the presence of high school transcripts
 - Users should ensure that the correct waves of data needed for analyses are included in the weight
 - For example, for analyses with variables from the Base Year high school transcripts, F3BYTSCPSWT is the weight that should be used
 - F3BYTSCPSWT was produced for all ELS:2002 sample members who responded in the Base Year and in the Third Follow-Up and have a sufficient amount of high school (First Follow-Up) transcript data
 - With the Restricted-use license, users receive the High School Transcript Data File User's Manual for ELS that describes the weights produced for the high school transcripts in more detail

HSTC Weights (Continued)

HSLs:09

- Four [weights](#) were initially computed: W3STUDENTTR, W3W2STUTR, W3W1STUTR, and W3W1W2STUTR
- As with previous high school longitudinal studies, these weights account for nonresponse in specific rounds of data collection
 - W3STUDENTTR: High school transcript and 2013 Update
 - W3W2STUTR: High school transcript, First Follow-Up, and 2013 Update
 - W3W1STUTR: High school transcript, Base Year, and 2013 Update
 - W3W1W2STUTR: High school transcript, Base Year, First Follow-Up, and 2013 Update
- Users should review the most recent data file documentation for HSLs and each study to be sure that they are using the appropriate weights

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Module Resources

- [Secondary Longitudinal Studies](#)
- [NAEP High School Transcript Study \(HSTS\)](#)
- [NLS-72](#)
- [HS&B](#)
- [NELS:88](#)
- [ELS:2002](#)
- [HSLS:09](#)
- [Restricted-use license](#)
- [PowerStats](#)
- [Education Data Analysis Tool \(eDAT\)](#)
- [Composite Variables](#)
- [NLS-72 Weights](#)
- [HS&B and NELS:88 Weights](#)
- [ELS:2002 Weights](#)
- [HSLS:09 Weights](#)